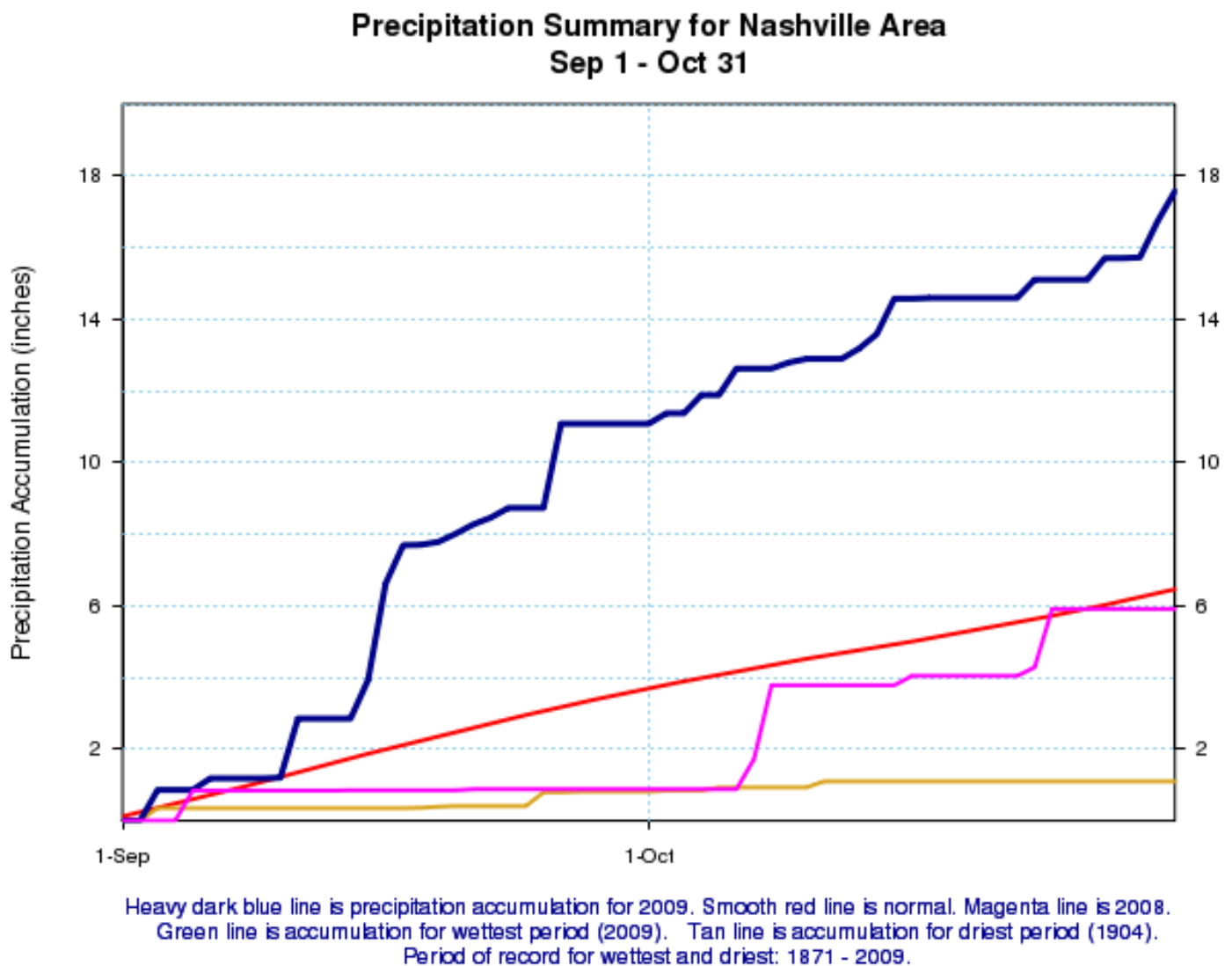


TENNESSEE COCORAHS

NOVEMBER 2009

“THE DRY MONTHS?!?”

September and October are climatologically the driest months across Tennessee, but not in 2009. Thanks to your reports we have an idea just how wrong that idea was this year. Many of you recorded a third of your normal rainfall in just these 2 months. It is going to be interesting to see how the annual totals shape up. You can take a look at the interpolated normals for many of your sites on the [Tennessee page](#) of CoCoRaHS. There is a link to a spreadsheet with almost 1,000 site on top of the eNewsletters and a map at the bottom of the page.



National CoCoRaHS is making a push to have one registered observer in every county. (Not really fair when you consider some counties out west are bigger than some eastern states.) Here in Tennessee we still have 4 counties that are not represented: Scott, Polk, Lake and Hardeman. If you know anyone in those counties that

might be interested please tell them how much you've enjoyed participating as a Citizen Scientist in CoCoRaHS.

This month one of our volunteers is going to share *her story* with CoCoRaHS. If this strikes a chord with you, send me a note and we'll share your experience as a CoCoRaHS observer. Pictures are always welcome to share too. (ralph.troutman@noaa.gov)

CoCoRaHS Volunteer from the Volunteer State!

I wanted to share a little with everybody about my 2 ½ years as a volunteer 'rain catcher' with the wonderful CoCoRaHS initiative. So many changes have occurred in my life in 2009 (and no doubt in many others) that the consistency that is needed to accurately record rainfall has been one of my most enjoyable 'anchors'. My official 'handle' is *TN-DV-12; Brentwood 5.0 ENE in Davidson County, Nashville, TN*. It sure feels good to have a solid place in the world!

I joined CoCoRaHS in April, 2007. I have always been a weather enthusiast and after a short Google search on the internet, I found the early CoCoRaHS site, which, at that time was recruiting volunteers in Tennessee. (We've come a long way baby!) This was a wonderful find since my educational background is in Liberal Arts with a love of science but with very little formal education. I figured, wow – in some small way I too can be a weathergirl!

When my rain gauge came, it was love at first sight. I was thrilled to see it was a simple device with only one small problem - I needed to learn to use a drill. My father and I oversaw the drilling and I was very proud when he said, "That was a mighty good drill job!" Being his caretaker in the last years of his life was a rocky road, and these little outings together have provided me with wonderful memories.

So I began my data collection. I am an off-time collector. I had a lot of trouble collecting at the preferred time of 7:00 am due to many nights of caretaking, so I opted for a consistent time of 9:30 am after too many missed readings. I was assured that although my readings would not necessarily make the map, they would be valuable up the road. I am hoping to get back to the 7 am readings soon... I would like to have my place on the map!

Checking my rain gauge everyday has been a bright spot for me on some of my rainiest days. I love getting out on my deck, where I have placed the gauge. It is unencumbered by trees or awnings and has full access to every drop of rain or flake of snow that comes its way. I dutifully clean the gauge when needed and prepare it for the seasons. It has weathered well – no cracks or scratches... wish I could say the same as I get up in the years!

This year I hope to learn much more about collecting in addition to training as a storm spotter. In Tennessee, storm spotting is a very important skill. Since we rarely get hail in my neck of the woods, I've been a bit lazy about measuring hail, but, I hope to have a hail pad as part of my gear before 2010. I also definitely want to make a visit to our weather station in Old Hickory, Tennessee.

All in all, in this very precarious world, full of changes and road bumps of all kinds, getting up in the morning to all kinds of weather and reporting the amount of rainfall to CoCoRaHS has helped me become more grounded. Knowing I am a very small part of a group of individuals working together to help scientists better understand our weather patterns which, in turn, contributes to a better understanding of droughts and floods, has made me feel better in some way. I am very proud to be a part of CoCoRaHS. ...and hey, if you are ever in the area, come on by & check out *my* weather station!



Kim Cady

TN-DV-12; Brentwood 5.0 ENE

Thanks again for another great month of observations and help. Keep your weather eye on the sky.

**Your Tennessee State CoCoRaHS Team,
Joanne, Zwemer, Craig, & Ralph**